



Geographical Indications in Maharashtra

Mohammed Mudassir Ahmed^{1†} and Veena M Kamble²

¹Lokseva Education Society's, Arts and Science College, Aurangabad, Maharashtra – 431 005, India

²Vasantrao Naik Mahavidyalaya, CIDCO, Cannought, Aurangabad, Maharashtra– 431 005, India

Received: 11th June 2021; accepted: 26th October 2021

The present paper aims to find the current situation of the registered commodities in the state of Maharashtra, the registered commodities are from three different categories i.e. Agriculture, Arts and Handicrafts and Manufactured products. These commodities mostly belong to agricultural category, among agricultural category fruits have taken lions share. All the registered commodities since the implementation of the Act have been included in the study. The paper discusses the present condition of the registered Geographical Indications of the Maharashtra State. Since the implementation of the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999, till now there are 34 products or commodities which have been registered with the authority of the Government of India. In this paper the authors have analysed the retrieved data by category of the product, involving districts of the products and chronologically registration of the products. Definition, purpose, history and genesis of Geographical indication have also been discussed. Some of the commodities which are not included or registered with the GI register are also identified by the author.

Keywords: Geographical Indication, TRIPS, WTO, Agriculture Products

Nature has given importance to every region of the earth. Every portion of the land is famous for its speciality and identity. These regions of the earth are identified by the nature's gift, some are identified by their culture and some are identified by techniques, art and craft of human kind living over there. The speciality and identity of particular good or product is geographically attributed to particular locality or region or territory. The said product or good is referred to that particular region and that region becomes famous and identified by that product or good. This is geographical indication of that territory. For the security of these particular GI's WTO (World Trade Organization) has sanctioned certain regulations under Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). This Agreement was discussed in Uruguay Round of General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) between 1989 and 1990. The participant countries have to enact respective acts with regard to intellectual property (IP) in their countries to legalize the certain identity of locality with particular goods or product. In our country first product which was tagged and registered by Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trademarks, Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal

Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India with GI was Darjeeling Tea in the year 2004-05.¹

Registration process consists of the application for including in GI register. After careful scrutiny of the application the authority publishes the GI registration with its application number in Geographical Indication Journal. Once the registration detail of particular commodity or product published in the said journal, that product is considered to be registered GI tag with respective region or locality. In India, there are as many as 370 products registered with the authority and having GI tag with respective locality or state as per the register of the GI tag. Among these 34 products or commodities are from state of Maharashtra (Table 1).²

What is Geographical Indication (GI)?

A GI or Geographical Indication tag is a sign or name given to certain products belonging to a specific geographical origin and possesses origin-based qualities and reputation in the region. This tagging represents the relativity of the product or process with specific region. Geographical indication (GI) means an identity of the particular area or region with that of respective product or method of preparing some identical dish or item. Actually, GI tagging is certification of the product with the respective area,

[†]Corresponding author: Email: itmudassir@gmail.com

Table 1 — GI Tag Registration of Maharashtra

| S. No. | Application No. | Name of product | Field of product | Year of Registration | District |
|--------|-----------------|-------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|------------|
| 1 | 8 | Solapur chaddar | Handicraft | 2005 | Solapur |
| 2 | 9 | Solapur terry towel | Handicraft | 2005 | Solapur |
| 3 | 128 | Puneri pagadi | Handicraft | 2009 | Pune |
| 4 | 154 | Mahabaleshwar strawberry | Agricultural | 2010 | Pune |
| 5 | 165 | Nashik grapes | Agricultural | 2010 | Nashik |
| 6 | 150 | Paithani saree & fabrics | Handicraft | 2010 | Aurangabad |
| 7 | 153 | Paithan's paithani, | Handicraft | 2010 | Aurangabad |
| 8 | 123 | Nashik valley wine | Manufactured | 2010 | Nashik |
| 9 | 240 | Kolhapur jaggery | Agricultural | 2013 | Kolhapur |
| 10 | 385 | Nagpur orange | Agricultural | 2013 | Nagpur |
| 11 | 239 | Warli painting | Handicraft | 2013 | Mumbai |
| 12 | 470 | Ajara ghansal rice | Agricultural | 2015 | Kolhapur |
| 13 | 472 | Mangalwedha jowar | Agricultural | 2015 | Solapur |
| 14 | 474 | Sindhudurg & Ratnagiri kokum | Agricultural | 2015 | Sindhudurg |
| 15 | 476 | Waghya ghevada | Agricultural | 2015 | Satara |
| 16 | 477 | Navapur tur dal | Agricultural | 2015 | Nandurbar |
| 17 | 489 | Vengurla cashew | Agricultural | 2015 | Sindhudurg |
| 18 | 491 | Lasalgaon onion | Agricultural | 2015 | Nashik |
| 19 | 390 | Karvath kati sarees & fabrics | Agricultural | 2016 | Bhandara |
| 20 | 471 | Waigaon turmeric | Agricultural | 2016 | Wardha |
| 21 | 473 | Bhiwapur chilli | Agricultural | 2016 | Nagpur |
| 22 | 478 | Ambemohar rice | Agricultural | 2016 | Pune |
| 23 | 490 | Sangli raisins | Agricultural | 2016 | Sangli |
| 24 | 493 | Dahanu gholvad chikoo | Agricultural | 2016 | Palghar |
| 25 | 494 | Beed custard apple | Agricultural | 2016 | Beed |
| 26 | 495 | Jalna sweet orange | Agricultural | 2016 | Jalna |
| 27 | 498 | Jalgaon banana | Agricultural | 2016 | Jalgaon |
| 28 | 499 | Marathwada kesar mango | Agricultural | 2016 | Beed |
| 29 | 500 | Purandar fig | Agricultural | 2016 | Pune |
| 30 | 501 | Jalgaon bharit brinjal | Agricultural | 2016 | Jalgaon |
| 31 | 502 | Solapur pomegranate | Agricultural | 2016 | Solapur |
| 32 | 139 | Alphonso | Agricultural | 2018 | Ratnagiri |
| 33 | 496 | Sangli turmeric | Agricultural | 2018 | Sangli |
| 34 | 169 | Kolhapuri chappal | Handicraft | 2018 | Kolhapur |

Source: <http://www.ipindia.nic.in/registered-gls.htm>

region or geographical locality. In geographical indication quality, method, and reputation of a product originate from strictly defined with area specified in its intellectual property right registration.³

Every part of the earth is having its importance. Some geographical attribution is there with that part of the earth. While some places are identified by their traditional arts and some are famous for their traditional method handed over from previous generation to next generation. For example, Kolhapuri chappal, Mumbai wada pav, Arabian horses, China silk, Venetian glass and Dhaka muslin, Ratnagiri's alphonso, etc. So, GI must have a special quality or reputation or other characteristic should be unique in its nature. In case of manufactured goods, that must be processed or prepared in that territory. GI is used to

identify natural or manufactured goods and agricultural goods.⁴

Purpose of Geographical Indication (GI)

The purpose of the GI is basically to ensure the identity of the particular product with respective locality or territory, like:

- (i) To ensure popular product name with respective region.
- (ii) To show the relation between product and geographical area.
- (iii) To retain the name of the respective region with the manufactured product or goods.
- (iv) To enrich the identity of the product with the respective location.

- (v) To increase sustainability of the local production of food and other entity.
- (vi) To make chain with common product reputation with origination.
- (vii) To enable origin community to receive a higher retail price benefit percentage.
- (viii) To restrict duplication of the product.
- (ix) To ensure to maintain quality of the product for the consumers.
- (x) To increase tourism industry with the help of the geographical indicated product.
- (xi) To secure prestige of the region.
- (xii) To preserve the natural resources from which the product gets its raw material. Hence protect the environment.
- (xiii) To preserve the tradition and traditional knowledge.
- (xiv) To grow regional economy.

History and Genesis of GI

GI have long been related with the concept of entity where there is a tradition of associating certain food products with particular regions. As per European Union Law, protected designation of origin frame work which regulates the Protected Designation of Origin (PDO) and Traditional Specialities Guaranteed (TSG). Items that meet geographical origin and quality standards may be endorsed with a government-issued stamp which acts as official certification of the origins and standards of the product.¹

Internationally, World Trade Organization (WTO) is the leading organisation in this regard. The members of the WTO agreed on certain rules and regulation to ensure the safety of intellectual property. The TRIPS Agreement introduced intellectual property law into the multilateral trading system for the first time and remains the most comprehensive multilateral agreement on intellectual property. The agreement also specified the procedure, remedies and dispute resolution of the all the intellectual property rights. Two specific articles discussed with regards to this agreement are:⁵

- (i) Article 22 states the provision of the GI registration policy of the particular country. This policy should be implemented through an act in this regard to restrict the duplication of the names also.
- (ii) Article 23 says that government of the respective country should provide the right of ownership of

its citizens of GI. It should also be applied where the public is not being misled.

Geographical Indications in India

Being the member of the WTO, Government of India was compelled to enact the Act on GI. The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 was passed in the Parliament of India for protection of geographical indications in December 1999. The Act came into force from 15th September 2003 was for better protection of geographical indications relating to goods in India.

Geographical Indications in Maharashtra

Out of all the GI Tags registered in India, Maharashtra state owns 34 GIs (Table 1). Most of these registered GI tags are of the year 2016 with highest % of 38.24 (Table 2).

The contribution of State of Maharashtra in GI is mainly in the agricultural product category having 26 GI tags. Whereas, under handicraft category there are 7 registrations and in manufactured products category there is only one registration (Table 3).

There are 36 districts in the state of Maharashtra. Out of 36 districts only 18 districts have been involved in the GI tag registration, it means only 50% districts are having GI tag registration of the regional product or commodities (Table 4). Though, other remaining districts having their specialization in natural as well as man-made products are not having registration of their commodity (Table 5).

It is observed that Pune and Solapur are having 4 products with 11.76% each registered with GI tag register. Kolhapur and Nashik are at the second place with 3 products and 8.82% each registered with GI tag register. Aurangabad, Beed Jalgoan, Nagpur,

Table 2 — GI Tag registration in Maharashtra during 2005-2018

| S No. | Year | No. of GI Tags | Percentage |
|-------|------|----------------|------------|
| 1 | 2005 | 2 | 5.88 |
| 2 | 2009 | 1 | 2.94 |
| 3 | 2010 | 5 | 14.71 |
| 4 | 2013 | 5 | 8.82 |
| 5 | 2015 | 7 | 20.59 |
| 6 | 2016 | 13 | 38.24 |
| 7 | 2018 | 3 | 8.82 |

Table 3 — GI Tag registration in Maharashtra during 2005-2018 under different categories

| S No. | Category | No. of GI Tags | Percentage |
|-------|----------------------|----------------|------------|
| 1 | Handicraft | 7 | 21 |
| 2 | Manufactured goods | 1 | 3 |
| 3 | Agriculture products | 26 | 76 |

Table 4 — District wise GI Tag registration in Maharashtra during 2005-2018

| S. No. | Name of district | No. of GI Tags | Percentage |
|--------|------------------|----------------|------------|
| 1 | Pune | 4 | 11.76 |
| 2 | Solapur | 4 | 11.76 |
| 3 | Kolhapur | 3 | 8.82 |
| 4 | Nashik | 3 | 8.82 |
| 5 | Aurangabad | 2 | 5.88 |
| 6 | Beed | 2 | 5.88 |
| 7 | Jalgaon | 2 | 5.88 |
| 8 | Nagpur | 2 | 5.88 |
| 9 | Sangli | 2 | 5.88 |
| 10 | Sindhudurg | 2 | 5.88 |
| 11 | Bhandara | 1 | 2.94 |
| 12 | Jalna | 1 | 2.94 |
| 13 | Mumbai | 1 | 2.94 |
| 14 | Nandurbar | 1 | 2.94 |
| 15 | Palghar | 1 | 2.94 |
| 16 | Ratnagiri | 1 | 2.94 |
| 17 | Satara | 1 | 2.94 |
| 18 | Wardha | 1 | 2.94 |

Table 5 — Commodities not registered as GI in Maharashtra

| S No. | Name of districts | Product name |
|-------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | Nanded | Tahari |
| 2 | Nashik | Batata Vada |
| 3 | Parbhani | Bajra |
| 4 | Aurangabad | Tamarind |
| 5 | Amravati | Puran Poli |
| 6 | Konkan | Zunka Bhakar |
| 7 | Kolhapur | Vegetable Curry |
| 8 | Mumbai | Missal |
| 9 | Konkan | Kadhi |
| 10 | Aurangabad | Nan-Qaliya |
| 11 | Khandesh | Manda (Roti) |

Sangli and Sindhudurg are placed at third position with 2 registered products i.e. 5.88% with GI tag register. Remaining eight districts are having only one response each registered with GI tag register with 2.94% of the total products.

Conclusion

With the present study it is clear that people of Maharashtra are not so aware of the GI tag Registration process. As only 34 GI tag registration is found in Maharashtra State. With only 18 districts on the GI tag map, none of the food stuff of Maharashtra has qualified to be in the GI tag register. Only in the year 2016 most of the GI tag registration has been done. It is necessary to register all of the products and food stuffs in this register so as to increase the economical transactions and socio-economic development of the different regions of the state.

References

- 1 History of Geographical Indication, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/TRIPS_Agreement (accessed on 27 November 2020).
- 2 List of Geographical indications in India, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_geographical_indications_in_India (accessed on 26 November 2020).
- 3 Fiyaz A, Ramya K T, Ajay B C, Azam M M & Waris A, Geographical Indications registration in India: Present status and future prospectus, *Indian Farming*, 69 (9) (2019) 32.
- 4 Geographical Indication, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geographical_indication (accessed on 26 November 2020).
- 5 TRIPS (1994). Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights. Geneva.